

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KAMPAL 01589 101411 Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2486

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1589

E. O. 1652: GDS

TAGS: EIND PINT UG IS US CVIS ( BINAISA, GODFREY)

SUBJECT: GODFREY BINAISA IN UK

REF: LONDON 5397

1. ALTHOUGH GODFREY BINAISA IS A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF THIS EMBASSY AND HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO US IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS, INCLUDING STROH/ SIEDLE CASE, I AM AFRAID WE CANNOT COUNSEL HIM ON SUCH A DIFFICULT AND GRAVE MATTER AS WHETHER OR NOT HE OUGHT TO RETURN HERE. WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT MAKE ANY INQUIRIES HERE ABOUT HIS " CURRENT STANDING" WITHOUT WORSENING HIS SITUATION FURTHER, AND ANY READING WE MIGHT GIVE ON OUR OWN WOULD BE NO BETTER THAN A GUESS. WE BELIEVE BINAISA UNDERSTANDS, WITHOUT BEING TOLD, THAT HE CAN PROBABLY SAFELY PROLONG HIS ABSENCE ABROAD SOME WEEKS, SO LONG AS HE HAS A GOOD EXCUSE, BUT IF HE STAYS AWAY TOO LONG HE WILL BE CONSIDERED BY AMIN AND HIS COHORTS TO HAVE FLED COUNTRY AND TO HAVE BECOME A DISLOYAL UGANDAN, WHICH WILL MEAN THAT IT WOULD BE MOST UNWISE FOR HIM TO RETURN HERE. THUS, IT IS A MATTER OF TIME. IF HE DELAYS HIS RETURN A MONTH OR TWO, HIS DECISION WILL IN EFFECT HAVE BEEN MADE FOR HIM, AND DURATION OF HIS EXILE WILL BECOME A FUNCTION OF DURABILITY OF THE AMIN REGIME.

2. BINAISA COULD BE TOLD THAT NO INFORMATION HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION SINCE HIS DEPARTURE THAT WOULD INDICATE HE IS IN ANY GREATER DANGER THAN FORMERLY. HE IS PROBABLY AWARE THAT  
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PAGE 02 KAMPAL 01589 101411 Z

AMBASSADOR IBINGIRA HAS RETURNED AND SEEMED TO BE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY GENERAL AMIN. NUMBER ( WE ARE NOT SURE EXACTLY HOW MANY, BUT PERHAPS AS MANY AS 10) OF EX- MINISTERS WHO WERE ON LEAVE REPORTED TO AMIN AS ORDERED MAY 7, AND THOUGH THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RESTORED TO THEIR POSITIONS, NOTHING UNTOWARD HAS HAPPENED TO THEM YET. ALSO, BINIASA WILL BE INTERESTED TO KNOW ( AS WE ARE REPORTING SEPTEL) THAT WE HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY ( EMBASSY LONDON MUST, HOWEVER, PROTECT OUR SOURCES) THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER KIBEDI RETURNED TO UGANDA FOR A DAY LAST WEEKEND, SAW AMIN, ASSURED HIM OF HIS CONTINUING LOYALTY AND CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD RESIGNED SOLELY FOR REASONS OF HEALTH. KIBEDI HAS APPARENTLY NOW REJOINED HIS FAMILY IN NAIROBI. FACT THAT KIBEDI COULD DO THIS UNHARMED IS INDICATION THAT ELIMINATION SQUADS MAY BE UNDER LEASH. ( BINAISA AND KIBEDI ARE CLOSE FRIENDS.)

3. IN OUR OPINION BINAISA, AS JUST ABOUT MOST POLITICALLY PROMINENT MUGANDA STILL ON SCENE, HAS BEEN IN CONSTANT DANGER OF ELIMINATION EVER SINCE AMIN AND HIS COHORTS BEGAN MOVING AGAINST POTENTIAL OPPONENTS AMONG UGANDAN ELITE. THIS SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED MATERIALLY RECENTLY, ALTHOUGH THE TEMPO OF ELIMINATIONS SEEMS TO HAVE SLOWED DOWN. QUITE FRANKLY, BINAISA WILL NEVER BE OUT OF DANGER SO LONG AS PRESENT REGIME REMAINS IN POWER. HE OF COURSE KNOWS THIS AS WELL AS WE DO, SO WE ARE NOT OFFERING IT AS " ADVICE" ON WHAT HE SHOULD DO.

4. PLEASE GIVE HIM MY WARM REGARDS.  
KEELEY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

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